



MONROE THIS WEEK

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Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition provides details on the City's plan to update ADA accessibility, funding assistance for residential customers of Puget Sound Energy, a Bloodworks Northwest Pop-Up Donation Center coming to Monroe, a follow-up feature on local manufacturer Toolcraft, Inc., our local recognition of Pride Month 2020, and notes of thanks to individuals performing acts of service in our community.



Please contact me with any and all feedback regarding the articles below. I can be reached at gthomas@monroewa.gov.

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

CITY SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT FOR ADA TRANSITION PLAN

The City of Monroe is in the process of developing an ADA Transition Plan. This plan stems from the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, which requires public spaces and facilities to be accessible for people with disabilities. The City's ADA Transition Plan effort began with a self-assessment of our existing sidewalks along public streets, identifying locations where barriers exist that do not meet accessibility compliance. This data was collected in 2019 as part of our assessment of street conditions citywide. The next step is to analyze non-compliant locations and develop a plan to begin fixing them as time and budget allows. We want to hear from you and provide an opportunity to identify any particular locations that you would like to see changed. Your input will help prioritize what gets fixed first. I encourage you to visit the [project website](#) to learn more, check out the virtual Open House, and participate in the public survey!



NEED HELP WITH YOUR PUGET SOUND ENERGY BILL?

Puget Sound Energy has announced the COVID-19 Pandemic Assistance Fund to assist residential customers. This \$11 million fund includes the Crisis-Affected Customer Assistance Program (CACAP), which offers assistance to customers who have had their household income significantly reduced due to unemployment, partial unemployment or an inability to work since March 1, 2020. Eligible customers may receive a one-time bill credit equal to the cost of the energy your home used from March to August 2019, up to \$1,000. CACAP also includes additional bill-payment and weatherization assistance programs. You can apply for CACAP while funds are available. To learn more and apply, visit PSE's [COVID-19 update page](#).



COVID-19
Pandemic
Assistance Fund

A CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Later this month, Monroe will be home to a pop-up blood donation center. From June 22 to June 27, Bloodworks Northwest will bring its mobile donation Center to the Cascade Community Church on Frylands Blvd. Donating blood is an essential activity critical to sustaining community healthcare, especially during emergencies. Bloodworks Northwest is taking [extra precautions](#) to protect donors and staff during the COVID-19 outbreak, including requiring the wearing of masks, requiring appointments, and limiting guests on the donation site. This one-hour donation process is a safe and essential opportunity to support local hospitals and patients. [Donation appointments](#) are available and being accepted online.



LOCAL AWARD-NOMINATED MANUFACTURER AT NEAR FULL CAPACITY

As I shared in a [recent edition](#) of *Monroe This Week*, Toolcraft Inc., a manufacturer located in the Frylands Business Park, was recently nominated for Manufacturing Company of Year in the Small Companies category by Seattle Business Magazine. The Washington Manufacturing Awards recognize companies making important progress in productivity, growth and innovation. Karl Niemela, CEO of Toolcraft, says, "We were able to keep all our employees on during the COVID-19 crisis and working a full 40 hours," and the company is nearly at full production as Snohomish County moves into Phase 2. Mr. Niemela founded Toolcraft in Monroe in 1990; he had no market research telling him this type of business was needed in the market, but was seeking a new challenge. In his 20+ years in business, Mr. Niemela says Toolcraft has been fortunate to develop a diverse customer base that includes the medical, defense, and aerospace industries. Such a diverse customer base has helped keep them at near capacity in spite of a slowdown in their commercial aviation business. Due to COVID-19, Seattle Business Magazine postponed the Manufacturing Awards ceremony that was slated for April 28. They will announce a new date as soon as possible.



CITY RECOGNIZES JUNE AS LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH

This week I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing the month of June as LGBTQ Pride Month in the City of Monroe. June was designated Pride Month to commemorate the Stonewall Riots, which occurred in June 1969 and are generally recognized as the catalyst for the LGBT Rights Movement. Each June, communities across the country celebrate the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer-identified people and recognize those individuals who fight to secure equality. I invite you read the full text of the Proclamation, and join me in celebrating the harmony in which we coexist and the great diversity of our community.



CITY EXTENDS SINCERE THANKS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE PERFORMED ACTS OF KINDNESS AND SERVICE

At this week's June 9 City Council meeting, city staff briefed the Council on plans for a new communication campaign entitled #WeAreMonroeWA. This campaign was originally adopted in February as part of the Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee's recommendations. As originally envisioned, the campaign will feature a wide variety of community members sharing quotes, values, fun facts, photos, and/or short videos. Stories will feature both housed



#WeAreMonroeWA

and un-housed residents (never disclosing the housing status of featured individuals), and may touch on the issue of homelessness, highlighting that we are *all* Monroe.

The City still intends to run the original campaign, but as so much of our lives have, the initial focus of #WeAreMonroeWA has shifted in light of COVID-19. When launched in the very near future, the initial focus of the campaign will be to spotlight acts of kindness and fun, highlighting the best of Monroe in these unprecedented times.

In the spirit of #WeAreMonroeWA, and the initial focus of this campaign, today Rachel Adams, Monroe's HPAC Project Management Consultant, extends the City's sincere thanks and appreciation to a group of local individuals. Those featured in Rachel's [Thank You Notes](#) have, through their professional organizations and individual generosity, performed acts of kindness and service to the community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Please follow the City's [Facebook page](#) and future editions of *Monroe This Week* for further details on the #WeAreMonroeWA campaign.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council will meet in a Regular Study Session Meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the June 16 agenda.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



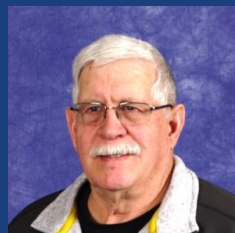
Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Jeff Rasmussen



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember
Heather Rousey

Have a question for your Councilmembers?
Contact them at councilmembers@monroewa.gov

